

UNODC - Information requested from State parties in relation to lessons learned in the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies

Slovakia

Slovakia welcomes the opportunity to provide relevant information as requested by the UNODC Secretariat in relation to the topics for discussion at the tenth intersessional Working Group on Prevention.

The fight against corruption, especially the area of corruption prevention, belongs to the top priorities of the Slovak Government and was included into the Declaration of Government of the Slovak Republic 2016 - 2020 stating determination for the narrowing of margins for corrupt behaviour across all areas of public administration.

Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as „the Office“) is appointed as the body to prevent corruption in SR pursuant to the Article 6 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The former Slovak Prime Minister granted even higher importance to fight against corruption when shifting department of corruption prevention into his office in February 2017. Since January 2019 the department (with agenda of fight against corruption with the focus on corruption prevention) is incorporated in the separate organizational section of the Office.

All necessary information and documents in the Slovak language are available at the website - <https://www.bojprotikorupcii.gov.sk>.

The Office is responsible for increasing awareness of corruption prevention in the Slovak Republic, particularly in the public sector. Furthermore, it is engaged in the following tasks:

- reinforcing the know-how regarding the prevention of and fight against bribery and corruption;
- increasing transparency and accountability in public sector institutions with regard to processes designed to prevent corruption and analyse the corruption risks;
- strengthening the instruments and tools for combatting corruption, including development and implementation of the new National Anti-Corruption Policy;
- providing education, advisory and consultation services in the area of integrity and prevention of corruption for civil servants and members of Government.

The Office has been running education (courses, trainings) in the domain of fighting corruption and corruption prevention, especially for the state administration - employees of ministries and other central bodies of state administration and local government. The Office closely cooperates with the Ministry of Education by providing support in trainings of teachers in the domain of fight against corruption, as well as education of children and youth on negative impacts and harmfulness of corruption. The priority is to raise their awareness about negative impacts of corruption and this activity is considered to be an important prevention tool.

In December 2018 the Government of the Slovak Republic has adopted the **National Anti-Corruption Policy for the period 2019-2023 by the Decree No. 585/2019**. This document is addressed primarily to the public sector institutions in order to reinforce public sector integrity as well as to restore trust in governmental institutions in Slovakia. The Policy is implied by the strong governmental and other

public institutions' commitment to address corruption. It also suggests to establish a position of an anti-corruption co-ordinator at each public institution, as well as the obligation to develop sectoral anti-corruption programmes based on the corruption risks management. The Board of Anti-Corruption Co-ordinators is already created as a special expert task-force to support cross-connection of anti-corruption policy of the government and individual ministries.

The National Anti-Corruption Policy shall be followed by the national anti-corruption program which will be formulated by the Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior by the end of June 2019 and individual ministries by the end of August 2019. All resorts shall publish their anti-corruption programs at their web pages and also their task- evaluation on an annual basis.

The National Anti-Corruption Policy follows the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. Its goals cover the areas of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, particularly the targets of providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions in the Slovak Republic. It sets up 3 top priorities in the area of anti-corruption policy for the next four years, 2019-2023, that means not only for the current national Government, but also for the next one (<https://www.bojprotikorupcii.gov.sk/protikorupcna-politika-sr/>).

Another important step forward in the area of corruption prevention is the latest **Act No. 54/2019 Coll. on Whistle-blowers' Protection** that replaced the previous one adopted in 2014. This new law entered into force on 1 March 2019. It provides an improved and more effective whistle-blowers' protection through the establishment of a dedicated independent Office for the whistle-blowers' protection (thereinafter „the WBP Office“). The current Labour Inspectorate's competences related to the whistle-blowers' protection are transferred into the WBP Office in order to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the protection of whistle-blowers. The WBP Office will also oversee the compliance with that law, provide expert opinions and advice on its application, advocate the provision of whistle-blowers' protection and it will also draft annual reports for the National Council of the Slovak Republic in this area. The WBP Office will also have the competence to draw attention to the deficiencies in addressing the suspicions that have been reported

(<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2019/54/20190301>).

The WBP Office will be headed by the President elected and removed from the office by the National Council from the candidates proposed by the Government. The Government will choose candidates selected by the special Commission, which consists of five members - one member is appointed by the President of the Slovak Republic, one by the Government, one by the Ombudsman, one by the Council for Civil Service and one by an advisory body of the Government for non-governmental organisations and civil society development.

One of the most important policy initiatives of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic to curtail corruption includes the preparation of implementation, maintenance and improvement of the **Anti-Bribery Management System** specified in accordance with the ISO 37001:2016 Standard. This system specifies a series of measures to help organizations prevent, detect and address bribery and corruption risks. These include adopting an anti-corruption policy, appointing a person to oversee anti-corruption compliance. Further activities include trainings, awareness raising, risk assessments and due diligence on projects and business associates, implementing financial and commercial controls, and instituting reporting and investigation procedures. This system will be fully implemented at the Office of Government of the Slovak Republic by the end of 2019.

In order to follow the recommendations as set in the National Anti-Corruption Policy 2019 – 2023 and to assist in the process of analysing and identifying the corruption risks in the respective ministries and institutions, the Department of Corruption Prevention of the Government Office has prepared the **Methodology for the Management of Corruption Risks**

(https://www.bojprotikorupcii.gov.sk/data/files/7075_riadenie-rizik_hlavny-mat-fin.pdf).